

# Montana WIC Program

## Retailer Newsletter

WINTER 2016

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

#### Page 2

Gerber Baby Food

EBT Update

#### Page 3

Beech Nut Baby Food

Price Survey

Happy Autumn

#### Page 4

Retail Team Contact  
Information

## New Food Lists January 1, 2016

Starting January 1, 2016, you will have new food lists. These food lists do not have any new items; rather, they provide clarifications about what products are available for yogurt and whole wheat pasta. These changes will not affect what WIC customers may buy but will help cashiers identify what is WIC eligible. The new food list will have the same cover but will have the date of January 2016. You will not receive new Retailer Program Booklets.

You may accept both the July 2015 and January 2016 Participant booklets.

If you have any questions, please call Leah Steinle.



Please share  
this information  
with all staff.



Effective: January 1, 2016

## Montana WIC Approved Food List





# Montana WIC Facts



- ⇒ WIC participants served - 18,382
- ⇒ Authorized retailers - 192
- ⇒ Benefits (checks) paid - 48,515
- ⇒ Benefits (checks) rejected - 642
- ⇒ Top rejection reasons:
  - » Missing Stamp - 198
  - » Illegible Stamp - 30
  - » Over Max Price - 357
  - » Missing Signature - 17
  - » Early Cashing - 15

**July  
2015**

**Checks rejected for Missing Signature are not eligible for state review, which means any benefit sent to the bank without a signature will not be reimbursed! If you noticed a benefit with no signature before deposit, call your LARC and ask them to call the participant to come in and sign. If they do not come in after 10 days, you may send to the state for review.**

## EBT Update

On November 17, 2015, Montana WIC kicked-off the EBT (eWIC) Project with our contractor, Solutran. Solutran currently holds the MT WIC paper-based banking contract and is also working with MT SNAP to transition as their contractor in the coming year. For more information about the MT WIC EBT Project, please attend our EBT Advisory Group call. We will discuss an in-depth timeline and a Solutran representative will be on the call. See the insert for more information.

## EBT Update

After what's felt like eons, we're ready to begin with a new EBT contractor, Solutran. Solutran will help us transition from paper benefits to an EBT card, as well as process WIC transactions. We're excited to begin working towards EBT and know without the support of retailers, we cannot be successful. In the coming months, we will send out letters detailing our timeline and next steps. We also plan to reactivate the Retailer Advisory Group to get your insights on best practices for the transition. If you would like to know more about WIC EBT, please contact Leah Steinle.

Look for new cashier training at  
[www.dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/wic.gov](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/wic.gov)

# Beech-Nut Baby Food

Beech-Nut's "Just..." line of baby food will transition from 4.25oz containers to 4oz containers starting in October. **When the 4oz containers show up in your store, they will be WIC approved.** The WIC approved containers will contain a green "Natural" banner to help WIC customers and cashiers differentiate between the approved and unapproved containers. As with all other baby food, organic is not approved nor is baby food with anything other than fruits and vegetables (examples: added oatmeal or beans).



## Price Survey

Price surveys were due on August 31, 2015. If you have not sent yours in yet, please do so ASAP. It's important for us to have the most up-to-date prices for food to help set our maximum reimbursement level. If you experience a significant change in price for any of your WIC foods, please contact Kevin Moore.

## Happy Autumn!

Last year, WIC customers spent over \$13 million dollars in retail locations across the state. That means revenue for local communities and healthy food for Montana's most vulnerable. Thank you for working with the Montana WIC Program and hope you have an abundant fall!

The Montana WIC Retail Team  
Leah, Kevin and Glade



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Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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## Who do you call?

Retailers should contact their Local WIC Agency for concerns regarding WIC customers.

**Leah Steinle, Retail Manager** (406.444.5530) for questions about benefit redemption or allowable WIC foods

**Glade Roos, Retail Coordinator** (406.444.2841) with questions about your contract or stocking requirements

**Kevin Moore, Retail Coordinator** (406.444.4746) with price changes

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